

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-12 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the language of the claim allegedly raises question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 herein. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 14 (as amended) are clearly tied to a technological art, environment, or machine that would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §101 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lowe-Norris et al. (Windows 2000 Active Directory by Alistair G. Lowe-Norris, published by O'Riely, 1st edition January 2000) -- hereinafter "Lowe-Norris". Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-29 (as amended herein) are not anticipated by Lowe-Norris.

Claim 1 (as amended) recites:

A computer-implemented method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values; and
including the preferred policy in the merged policy set.

The Lowe-Norris reference discloses information regarding the use of Windows 2000 Group Policy Objects (GPOs). In Chapter 9 of Lowe-Norris, the reference discloses an order for applying multiple policies. For example, on page 205 of Lowe-Norris, the reference states:

If a GPO has settings that are configured for a parent Organizational Unit that conflict with the same settings in another GPO configured for a child Organizational Unit, then the child Organizational Unit does not inherit that specific GPO setting from the parent Organizational Unit. The setting in the GPO child policy takes priority, although there is one case in which this is not true. If the parent disables a setting and the child makes a change to that setting, the child's change is ignored. In other words, the disabling of a setting is always inherited down the hierarchy.

This disclosure of Lowe-Norris is different from "resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values", as recited in claim 1. Lowe-Norris fails to mention the use of an "allowed range of policy values" and, therefore, fails to disclose selection of a preferred policy based on the allowed range of policy values. The disclosure cited above on page 205 of Lowe-Norris selects policies based on whether a policy is a parent policy or a child

policy. Lowe-Norris makes no reference to selecting policies based on policy values. Because of these deficiencies, Lowe-Norris fails to disclose the elements in claim 1 and cannot be used to substantiate a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Lowe-Norris and is allowable. Given that claims 2-13 depend from claim 1, claims 2-13 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 14 (as amended) recites:

A computer-implemented method comprising:
identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies;
determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and
selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

The Lowe-Norris reference fails to disclose "arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies; determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policies", as recited in claim 14. Although Chapter 9 of Lowe-Norris discloses an order for applying multiple policies, Lowe-Norris fails to make any mention of arranging conflicting policies from global policies to local policies. Further, Lowe-Norris fails to disclose determining an intersection of the conflicting policies. Therefore,

Applicant submits that Lowe-Norris fails to disclose the elements in claim 14 and cannot be used to substantiate a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is not anticipated by Lowe-Norris and is allowable. Given that claims 15-19 depend from claim 14, claims 15-19 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 20 (as amended) recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and
a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and resolves conflicts among conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the Lowe-Norris reference discloses information regarding the use of policies. For example, in Chapter 9 of Lowe-Norris, the reference discloses an order for applying multiple policies. However, Lowe-Norris does not disclose a management module that “resolves conflicts among conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy based on an allowed range of policy values”, as recited in claim 20. As discussed above, Lowe-Norris fails to mention the use of an “allowed range of policy values”. Because of these deficiencies, Lowe-Norris fails to disclose the elements in claim 20 and cannot be used to substantiate a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is not anticipated by Lowe-Norris and is allowable. Given that claims 22-26

depend from claim 20, claims 22-26 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 recites:

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set;

determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;

include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set;

resolve conflicting policies by:

selecting an allowed policy range;

selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range; and

including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set.

As discussed above, the Lowe-Norris reference fails to disclose "selecting an allowed policy range", as recited in claim 27. Further, Lowe-Norris fails to disclose "selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range", as recited in claim 27. Although Chapter 9 of Lowe-Norris discloses an order for applying multiple policies, Lowe-Norris fails to make any mention of selecting an allowed policy range or selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range. Therefore, Applicant submits that Lowe-Norris fails to disclose the elements in claim 27 and cannot be used to substantiate a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Thus, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 27 is not anticipated by Lowe-Norris and is allowable. Given that Claims

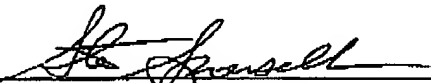
28-29 depend from Claim 27, Claims 28-29 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Claims 1-20 and 22-29 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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